

## Document Log Item

Addressing	
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<b>Description</b> <span>Form Used: Memo</span>	
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Christmas sludge spill - followup	01/26/2001 10:25 AM
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0	3,763
<b>NPM</b>	<b>Contributor</b>
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<b>Comments</b>	

Body

## Document Body

Sheila:

A couple of items. First, I wanted to confirm that you got my earlier message. I was not sure if you had - I was curious to find out more about the sludge spill over the Christmas holidays - including details re. the samples collected - volume, meteorological (i.e., winds) and general oceanographic conditions (i.e., general currents), etc. At this point, the information would be moot, as far as our EPA lab is concerned. They are not set up for the type of sophisticated "fingerprinting" analysis of this type of material at this point that I was thinking of, that is, the technique would have to be developed and tested. The reason for this is that this material contains polar (tendency to mix more readily with water) organic lipids - the existing methods work (very well) for nonpolar petroleum products and derivatives only. In the event that

a fingerprinting analysis method can be developed, the logistics of sampling and sample transportation would also need to be worked out in detail. The Region 9 lab contact was concerned about rapid shipping of samples, to avoid problems associated with degradation or other conversion of constituents in the sample. These kind of issues would have to be studied during the testing phase. The lab staff person I spoke with said he could check into any possible adaptations of the method for fishwaste, so, the bottom line for the moment is that we are basically on hold, and stuck with conventional analysis of parameters for now.

Regardless of the analysis methods, we still need to work out the procedure of collecting the other associated information (i.e., meteorological and general oceanographic) so we can develop a database that could be useful in determining any seasonally vulnerable periods. Also, we need to find out about any details of the processing operations that may be pertinent to the movement of the fishwaste plumes in the coastal waters.

As you may be aware, this office has recently sent out letters to the canneries requesting specific information regarding this latest incident, and we may (likely) be requesting other information as we review their submittals. Please let us know of any information you have picked up since early January, and if you have other concerns that we need to address.

Thanks.  
- Allan